

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RANDY AKINS,

Plaintiff, No. CIV S-00-0234 MCE KJM P

vs.

ANA RAMIREZ-PALMER, et al.,

Defendants. ORDER

Plaintiff is a prisoner proceeding pro se with a civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Defendants motion for summary judgment and renewed motion for summary judgment have been denied. The case is now ready for pretrial conference and trial.

In addition to the matters already required to be addressed in the pretrial statement in accordance with Local Rule 16-281, plaintiff will be required to make a particularized showing in his pretrial statement in order to obtain the attendance of witnesses. Plaintiff is advised that failure to comply with the procedures set forth below may result in the preclusion of any and all witnesses named in his pretrial statement.

At the trial of this case, the plaintiff must be prepared to introduce evidence to prove each of the alleged facts that support the claims raised in the lawsuit. In general, there are two kinds of trial evidence: (1) exhibits and (2) the testimony of witnesses. It is the plaintiff's

1 responsibility to produce all of the evidence to prove his case, whether that evidence is in the  
2 form of exhibits or witness testimony. If the plaintiff wants to call witnesses to testify, he must  
3 follow certain procedures to ensure that the witnesses will be at the trial and available to testify.

4           I.       Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Incarcerated Witnesses Who  
5                   Agree to Testify Voluntarily

6           An incarcerated witness who agrees voluntarily to attend trial to give testimony  
7 cannot come to court unless this court orders the warden or other custodian to permit the witness  
8 to be transported to court. This court will not issue such an order unless it is satisfied that:

- 9                  1. The prospective witness is willing to attend; and  
10                 2. The prospective witness has actual knowledge of relevant facts.

11           With the pretrial statement, a party intending to introduce the testimony of  
12 incarcerated witnesses who have agreed voluntarily to attend the trial must serve and file a  
13 written motion for a court order requiring that such witnesses be brought to court at the time of  
14 trial. The motion must:

- 15                  1. State the name, CDC Identification number, and address of each such  
16                   witness; and  
17                  2. Be accompanied by affidavits showing that each witness is willing to  
18                   testify and that each witness has actual knowledge of relevant facts.

19           The willingness of the prospective witness can be shown in one of two ways:

- 20                  1. The party intending to introduce the testimony can swear by affidavit  
21                   that the prospective witness has informed the party that he or she is willing  
22                   to testify voluntarily without being subpoenaed. The party must state in  
23                   the affidavit when and where the prospective witness informed the party of  
24                   this willingness; or

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1                   2. The party can serve and file an affidavit sworn to by the prospective  
2                   witness, in which the witness states that he or she is willing to testify  
3                   without being subpoenaed.

4                   The prospective witness' actual knowledge of relevant facts can be shown in one  
5                   of two ways:

6                   1. The party intending to introduce the testimony can swear by affidavit  
7                   that the prospective witness has actual knowledge. However, this can be  
8                   done only if the party has actual firsthand knowledge that the prospective  
9                   witness was an eyewitness or an ear-witness to the relevant facts. For  
10                  example, if an incident occurred in the plaintiff's cell and, at the time, the  
11                  plaintiff saw that a cellmate was present and observed the incident, the  
12                  plaintiff may swear to the cellmate's ability to testify.

13                  Or

14                  2. The party can serve and file an affidavit sworn to by the prospective  
15                  witness in which the witness describes the relevant facts to which the  
16                  prospective witness was an eye- or ear-witness. Whether the affidavit is  
17                  made by the plaintiff or by the prospective witness, it must be specific  
18                  about what the incident was, when and where it occurred, who was  
19                  present, and how the prospective witness happened to be in a position to  
20                  see or to hear what occurred at the time it occurred.

21                  The court will review and rule on the motion for attendance of incarcerated  
22                  witnesses, specifying which prospective witnesses must be brought to court. Subsequently, the  
23                  court will issue the order necessary to cause the witness' custodian to bring the witness to court.

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1           II.     Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Incarcerated Witnesses Who  
2                   Refuse to Testify Voluntarily

3           If a party seeks to obtain the attendance of incarcerated witnesses who refuse to  
4 testify voluntarily, the party should submit with his or her pretrial statement a motion for the  
5 attendance of such witnesses. Such motion should be in the form described above. In addition,  
6 the party must indicate in the motion that the incarcerated witnesses are not willing to testify  
7 voluntarily.

8           III.    Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Unincarcerated Witnesses Who  
9                   Agree to Testify Voluntarily

10          It is the responsibility of the party who has secured an unincarcerated witness'  
11 voluntary attendance to notify the witness of the time and date of trial. No action need be sought  
12 or obtained from the court.

13          IV.     Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Unincarcerated Witnesses Who  
14                   Refuse to Testify Voluntarily

15          If a prospective witness is not incarcerated, and he or she refuses to testify  
16 voluntarily, not earlier than four weeks and not later than two weeks before trial, the party must  
17 prepare and submit to the United States Marshal a subpoena for service by the Marshal upon the  
18 witness. (Blank subpoena forms may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court.) Also, the party  
19 seeking the witness' presence must tender an appropriate sum of money to the witness through  
20 the United States Marshal. In the case of an unincarcerated witness, the appropriate sum of  
21 money is the daily witness fee of \$40.00 plus the witness' travel expenses.

22          A subpoena will not be served by the United States Marshal upon an  
23 unincarcerated witness unless the subpoena is accompanied by a money order made payable to  
24 the witness for the full amount of the witness' travel expenses plus the daily witness fee of  
25 \$40.00, and a copy of the court's order granting plaintiff in forma pauperis status. Because no  
26 statute authorizes the use of public funds for these expenses in civil cases, the tendering of

1 witness fees and travel expenses is required even if the party was granted leave to proceed in  
2 forma pauperis.

3 Good cause appearing, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b), THIS COURT ORDERS  
4 AS FOLLOWS:

5 1. Plaintiff shall file and serve his pretrial statement and any motions necessary to  
6 obtain the attendance of witnesses at trial on or before June 15, 2006. Defendants shall file their  
7 pretrial statement on or before June 29, 2006. The parties are advised that failure to file a  
8 pretrial statement may result in the imposition of sanctions, including dismissal of this action.

9 2. Pretrial conference (as described in Local Rule 16-282) is set in this case for  
10 July 10, 2006, before the magistrate judge. The pretrial conference shall be conducted on the file  
11 only, without appearance by either party.

12 3. This matter is set for jury trial before the Honorable Morrison C. England on  
13 August 23, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom #3.

14 DATED: April 25, 2006.

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17 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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